

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-33 were pending in the application. Following entry, claims 1-6, 8-20, and 22-50 will be pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Assignee notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7-10 and 21-33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, the Assignee has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 7, effectively rewriting claim 7 in independent form. Similarly, the Assignee has amended claim 11 to incorporate the limitations of claim 21, effectively rewriting claims 21 in independent form. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully submits claims 1 and 11 are allowable, as amended.

Dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-20, and 22-33 depend from either claim 1 or claim 11. Accordingly, these claims are also patentable. The Assignee makes this statement without reference to or surrendering the independent bases of patentability within each dependent claim. The Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw her rejections and allow all pending claims as soon as practicable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, alleging the claim was indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner alleged claim 12 was grammatically unclear. Although the Assignee asserts the claim was allowable in its original form, claim 12 has been amended to clarify the subject matter of the claim. The Assignee respectfully submits this amendment was non-substantive and not made for reasons of patentability.

The Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw her rejection and allow claim 12.

New Claims

The Assignee has added new claims 34-50 in this Amendment and Response. Claim 34 corresponds to previously-presented claim 7, and is written in independent form. Similarly, claims 35-37 correspond to previously-presented claims 8-10. Claim 38 corresponds to previously-presented claim 11, and is written in independent form. Similarly, claims 39-50 correspond to previously-presented claims 12-33.

The Assignee respectfully submits claims 34-50 are allowable in their present form. Accordingly, the Assignee respectfully requests the Examiner allow claims 34-50 as soon as practicable.

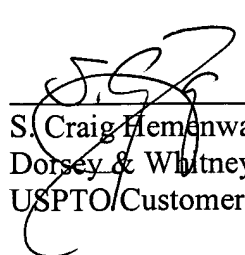
CONCLUSION

The Assignee believes that no extension fees or petitions for extensions of time are presently due. However, should any such fees or petitions be necessary, please consider this a request therefor and charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 therefor.

The Assignee thanks the Examiner for her thorough review of the claims in this application. Further, the Assignee submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests the application be passed to allowance. In the event the Examiner has questions or comments and a telephone conversation would expedite a resolution, the Assignee invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (303) 629-3400.

Dated this 7th day of January, 2004

Respectfully submitted:



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SCH/sd
cc: IP Docketing